

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please enter amendments to the claims to change Claim 26, cancel Claim 1 and add new claims 94-105, all without prejudice to or disclaimer of any subject matter. A complete listing of the claims, including markings to show changes made to currently amended claims, follows beginning on the next page.

COMPLETE LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-25 (Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) A~~The~~ method for making a drug-containing particulate product, the method comprising: of Claim 1,

contacting a drug-containing feed solution with a compressed anti-solvent fluid to precipitate drug-containing particles, the feed solution including the drug in a cosolvent system including at least a first organic solvent and a second organic solvent that are mutually soluble; and

separating the drug-containing particles from the anti-solvent fluid;

wherein the feed solution comprises a biocompatible polymer and the particles are multi-component particles comprising at least a portion of the biocompatible polymer.

27. (Original) The method of Claim 26, wherein the drug is more soluble in the first organic solvent than is the biocompatible polymer, and the biocompatible polymer is more soluble in the second organic solvent than the drug.

28. (Original) The method of Claim 26, wherein the biocompatible polymer is hydrophobic, the first organic solvent being a polar solvent for the drug and the second organic solvent being a nonpolar solvent for the biocompatible polymer.

29. (Original) The method of Claim 26, wherein the first organic solvent is substantially miscible with water and the second organic solvent is substantially immiscible with water.

30. (Original) The method of Claim 26, wherein the second organic solvent comprises at least one of methylene chloride, formaldehyde, dioxolane, chloroform, benzene, ethyl ether, toluene, xylene, 1,3-dioxane and THF.

31. (Original) The method of Claim 30, wherein the first organic solvent comprises an alcohol.

32. (Original) The method of Claim 31, wherein the first organic solvent comprises a C₁-C₅ alkanol.

33. (Original) The method of Claim 32, wherein the second organic solvent comprises methylene chloride.

34. (Original) The method of Claim 26, wherein the method comprises, prior to the contacting step, preparing the feed solution, comprising mixing a first solution having the drug dissolved therein with a second solution having the biocompatible polymer dissolved therein, the first solution including the first organic solvent and the second solution including the second organic solvent.

35. (Original) The method of Claim 34, wherein during the mixing step, the second solution is added to the first solution.

36. (Original) The method of Claim 26, wherein the weight ratio of the drug to the biocompatible polymer in the feed solution is larger than 5:95.

37. (Original) The method of Claim 26, wherein the weight ratio of the drug to the polymer in the feed solution is in a range of from 5:95 to 50:50.

38. (Original) The method of Claim 26, wherein the contacting step is conducted under conditions so that the multi-component particles have a degree of encapsulation of the drug by the polymer of greater than 50 percent.

39. (Original) The method of Claim 26, wherein the contacting step is conducted under conditions so that the multi-component particles have a degree of encapsulation of the drug by the polymer of greater than 70 percent.

40. (Original) The method of Claim 26, wherein the biocompatible polymer comprises repeating units from polymerization of at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of an alphahydroxycarboxylic acid, a cyclic diester of an alphahydroxycarboxylic acid, a dioxanone, a lactone, a cyclic carbonate, a cyclic oxalate, an epoxide, and a glycol.

Claims 41-93 (Cancelled)

94. (New) The method of Claim 26, wherein the first organic solvent and the second organic solvent are present in the cosolvent system at a volume ratio of the second organic solvent to the first organic solvent of from 10:90 to 99:1.

95. (New) The method of Claim 26, wherein the first organic solvent and the second organic solvent are present in the cosolvent system at a volume ratio of the second organic solvent to the first organic solvent of larger than 30:70.

96. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the first organic solvent and the second organic solvent are present in the cosolvent system at a volume ratio of the second organic solvent to the first organic solvent of from 50:50 to 90:10.

97. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the compressed anti-solvent fluid, during the contacting, is at a reduced pressure of larger than 0.8 and a reduced temperature of larger than 0.95, the reduced pressure being a ratio of pressure expressed in atmospheres of the compressed anti-solvent fluid during the contacting to the critical pressure expressed in atmospheres of the compressed anti-solvent fluid, and the reduced temperature being a ratio of temperature expressed in K of the compressed anti-solvent fluid during the contacting to the critical temperature expressed in K of the compressed anti-solvent fluid.

98. (New) The method of claim 97, wherein the compressed anti-solvent fluid, during the contacting, is at a reduced pressure of larger than 0.9.

99. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the compressed anti-solvent fluid, during the contacting, is in a supercritical state.

100. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the compressed anti-solvent fluid comprises compressed carbon dioxide.

101. (New) The method of Claim 26, wherein the drug is selected from the group consisting of a protein, a peptide and a genetic material.

102. (New) The method of Claim 26, wherein the concentration of the drug in the feed solution is smaller than 3 mg of the drug per milliliter of the feed solution.

103. (New) The method of Claim 26, wherein the feed solution comprises the biocompatible polymer dissolved in the cosolvent system.

104. (New) The method of Claim 26, wherein the feed solution comprises both the biocompatible polymer and the drug dissolved in the cosolvent system.

105. (New) The method of Claim 26, wherein the contacting comprises extracting the first organic solvent and the second organic solvent into the anti-solvent fluid.